

Belmont Cable Access Committee (BCAC)
Minutes 3/16/04
7:30PM, BCTV Studio (BHS Room 117)

Present

Committee: John Verrilli, Todd Bloniarz, Pam Curtis
Comcast: Abiodun Shobowale

Call to Order

John Verrilli officially called the meeting to order at 7:40.

Review of 2/17/04 Minutes

Minutes were received and approved.

Issues from the Community/Complaints/Concerns/Coverage

One person recently called the studio to compliment Ch. 8 on a marked improvement in both video and audio clarity of all programs. This is in part due to line technicians who were brought in by Comcast to visit both the studio and head end facility to correct signal issues that had been an ongoing problem at both locations.

Abiodun updated the BCAC on recent video equipment training workshops attended by up to a half-dozen middle and high school students, some of them having already crewed on several Ch.8 programs. Abiodun also recently spoke with Richard Preston, high school video club faculty advisor, about a collaborative effort between the video club and Ch. 8 to produce a high school news program by the end of this school year. It was also mentioned that Mark Ventola has been working with some students at the Chenery Middle School to learn how to use some of the studio equipment. On top of all that, a general video production skills workshop is currently being advertised on the Ch. 8 bulletin board to run from March 30-April 16 for any interested Belmont residents.

Report on Studio Operations

Mark Apostolon was unable to attend the BCAC meeting but met with John Verrilli earlier in the day and updated him on issues and concerns addressed by the BCAC at the February meeting:

The picture quality has been improved as previously mentioned in these minutes.

The Alphagen video bulletin board generator was sent out for repairs and has been temporarily replaced by a 'loaner' from the Woburn access studio.

The aforementioned bulletin board will keep an accurate schedule of programs.

Mark A. has arranged to send Comcast studio technicians to Ch. 8 to help set up all the newly purchased video equipment, to be completed by April 28th.

Studio hours are now posted on the front door of Ch. 8 and are also updated on the outgoing phone message to the studio.

Budgetary Issues

Mark A. supplied John with the 2004 Comcast studio budget that was distributed to the other BCAC members. A letter was also given to the BCAC dated September 5, 2003, stating that Comcast sent Ch. 8 a check for \$10,000.00, which was delivered to the Board of Selectmen. This check took the place of funds that in past years would have been included in the annual station budget. The funds presently reside in an account to be used by Ch. 8 for future equipment purchases.

Upcoming Election Status

Candidates Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 25 and will be covered by Channel 8. There are two contested political races in Belmont; the involved candidates have been contacted by the studio staff and been given the Ch. 8 political guidelines regarding the time allotted on the station to broadcast candidates' statements.

Next Meeting

Due to at least two members being out of town on April 20th, the next meeting of the BCAC has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30, BHS Room 117.

Meeting was adjourned promptly at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Bloniarz